partner. 10 consortia responded to the Expression of Interest (EoI) sought by AAI in Feb, 2004 and 9 bidders have been short listed for submitting detailed technical and financial proposals.

A Plan has also been drawn by AAI for City Side Development of 25 Non-Metro Airports through JV participation, wherever possible. IFC and GTA have already been selected for conducting techno-economic feasibility study of ten non-metro airports. Expressions of Interest (EoIs) for appointment of Consultants have been issued for the remaining airports. Two Greenfields Projects at Bangalore and Hyderabad are also being implemented with strategic partners.

Appointment of insurance company by IA

1168. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IA has appointed any insurance company since the contract of the existing insurance company ended in September, 2004;

(b) if so, the details of the appointment made;

(c) the details of insurance companies to whom contracts have been awarded during the last five years, year-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that some deviation took place in the appointment of insurance company this year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. has been appointed as insurers for renewal of aviation insurance policy of Indian Airlines effective 1st October, 2004.

(c) Indian Airlines takes its aviation insurance policy from one of the four Public Sector Insurance Companies. Till the year 2000-01, the aviation insurance of the public sector airlines was handled by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC). Thereafter, GIC ceased to directly underwrite aviation insurance. The New India Assurance Company handled the Insurance of Indian Airlines for the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(d) and (e) The guidelines have been modified to the extent to rotate the business of insurance of Indian Airlines' fleet amongst the four public sector insurance companies in order to create a level playing field and to gain the advantage of strengths/experience of all the companies.

Private airlines to overseas destinations

1169. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to permit the private airlines to fly to more overseas destinations;

(b) whether AI and IA have been unable to utilise the rights bilaterally negotiated with Governments of flight destinations; and

(c) whether Government would consider permitting the private airlines fly the same routes instead of giving the unused bilateral rights to foreign airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government has presently permitted Private Domestic Scheduled Operators (PDSOs) to operate to SAARC countries against unutilised entitlements of the Indian side subject to the provision for designation of multiple airlines in the respective Air Services Agreement.

(b) Operation of international air services by Air India and Indian Airlines is a matter of commercial judgement of the concerned airlines depending upon the fleet availability and traffic demands. Designated Airlines of India are utilising most of the commercially viable rights that are available to them to the extent permitted by the availability of aircraft and other resources.

(c) At present, the operation of private airlines to SAARC countries are permitted only on the unutilised traffic rights of Indian side.

Recovery of dues from airlines

1170. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of airlines owe huge amount of money to Government on account of various levies and taxes;